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ence of mineralogy is added to the list, the eminence which you have attained is quite exceptional.

It is gratifying to know that your services to the cause of science have obtained full recognition from teachers and students of science and from learned bodies in all civilized countries. None will question that the honors which have thus been so abundantly bestowed and so modestly received are well deserved. The consciousness that the motive of your researches has been an unalloyed love of truth and an unselfish desire to enlarge the bounds of human knowledge must give to these testimonials all the value that such marks of honor can ever possess. We congratulate you that your academic relations both with fellow-professors and with pupils have been so uniformly pleasant. The classes which, in long succession, have listened to your instructions, could their voices be heard, would unite in expressions of sincere respect both for the qualities of character and for the talents and learning of their revered instructor. But it is no part of our purpose to enter into a detailed statement of the reasons which render it peculiarly agreeable for us, your old friends and neighbors, to offer to you to-day our heartfelt congratulations. Had it been thought worth while to extend the list of subscribers to this letter, no doubt all the members of the teaching body in the University would gladly have added their names.

But our communication is simply intended as an expression, from a few of your older associates, of interest in this anniversary and of our earnest hope that the blessing of a kind Providence may continue to be with you and with the members of your family.

Very sincerely yours,

TIMOTHY DWIGHT, GEORGE E. DAY,
GEORGE P. FISHER, GEORGE J. BRUSH,
WILLIAM H. BREWER, O. C. MARSH, FRANK-

LIN B. DEXTER, EDWARD E. SALISBURY,
WILLIAM D. WHITNEY, HUBERT A. NEW-
TON, SAMUEL W. JOHNSON, DANIEL C.
EATON, A. E. VERRILL, ADDISON VAN
NAME, SIDNEY I. SMITH.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF SLEDGES, ETC.

DID anybody ever read or hear of sledges, snowshoes or goggles for the eyes in aboriginal South America? I have traced the skee entirely across Asia, the netted snow shoe from the Amur around to Klamath river, Cal., with extension throughout Canada, New England and our northern tier of States. The ice creeper for the foot covers the region of my migration track from southern Kamchatka around to the Yukon. The built-up sledge is everywhere in the Hyperborean area of two hemispheres, the form depending on the exigencies of timber growth. The great broad skee or snow shoe of the Amur is the flat toboggan of the Dominion of Canada.

OTIS T. MASON.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM, April 20.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

Memoir of Sir Andrew Crombie Ramsay. By SIR ARCHIBALD GEIKIE, Director of the Geol. Surv. of Great Britain and Ireland. London and New York, Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. x + 397.

This is really a charming book and ought to be read not only by every geologist, but by every one interested in the story of a noble life. Indeed, the memoir of such a man as Ramsay by such a writer as Geikie could hardly be otherwise than deeply interesting.

Ramsay's career overlaps on the one hand with the old heroic days of the founders of English Geology—Lyell, Buckland, Sedgwick, Murchison, De la Beche, etc., and on the other with modern times and modern methods. He shared with the former the